

Topics of the Times

"Why do men wear suspenders?" asks a magazine writer. Don't answer. He knows why.

A German doctor describes Thaw's trouble as "dementia plutocrata." Moral: Don't get rich if you have children.

At the same time, do not confound "dementia Americana" with the already existing and highly unpopular mephitis Americana.

A New York woman weighing 490 pounds is suing for a divorce. She probably wouldn't miss a little thing like a 150-pound husband.

While the Boston soul is reported to weigh only an ounce, it is thought that the Boston intellect would have to be weighed on the hay scales.

Word comes from Russia that the government intends to hang 300,000 radicals. We are hardly willing to believe that this is a conservative estimate.

Once it is aroused, there is quite a wholesome sentiment in this country against printing newspapers that have to be hidden from the boys and girls at home.

A Georgia bride demurred at the word "obey" in the ceremony, but said she would "try" to obey her husband. If she does that, it will be a good deal more than most married women do.

A Connecticut man came home the other night and found that his wife had eloped with a burglar. That he was no professional burglar was evidenced by the fact that he left everything of value.

The army officers who have been appointed to dig the Panama Canal will receive \$14,000 a year, in addition to glory and their usual pay. If they get the ditch dug they will earn every dollar they receive.

They do some things better in Mexico. The manager of a bull-fight in Monterey advertised that a certain number of bulls would be in the ring. For producing one bull less than the announced number the man was fined \$200 by the municipal authorities.

A little sentiment which Mr. Cleveland put forth on his 70th birthday, and by which the occasion might well be remembered: "I believe that we must set ourselves against the fallacy that a city life is the easier and more productive of happiness." Mr. Cleveland has had ample experience of life, both in the city and in the country.

Of the Congressmen who have served since the foundation of this government, more than twelve thousand individuals, only thirty-four have served twenty years or more. The longest service was that of John H. Ketchum of New York, who served thirty-three years, and was a member when he died. Mr. Cameron, who comes next, has served thirty-two years. Since he is elected to the next Congress, he will, if he lives to the end of his term, take the first place in the list of veterans.

An English court lately sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months the manager of an insolvent bank who had issued deceptive circulars to induce the public to deposit money in the institution. One of the charges on which the man was convicted was that he had published false balance-sheets, indicating that ten thousand pounds had been deposited, when no such sum was represented on the books. The English laws relating to false and fraudulent statements in advertisements are much more stringent than those in this country. There are notorious financial advertisers in the United States who would be serving terms in prison if the laws permitted the punishment of those who issue misleading and deceptive statements.

It is said the women do not want pockets. Of course they don't. They are loyal to the style. They don't make themselves unhappy thinking what ought to be. They take the fashions as they come and make themselves as happy and beautiful as it is possible to be and they succeed wonderfully. But when Jennie comes home and tells William that she doesn't know where she left her pocketbook and says there was \$27.45 in it he arises in a state of submerged wrath and goes up into the bathroom and denounces M. Blanc and all his Parisian gang in words almost profane. But does that do any good? Not a particle. The world swims along as before and in the swim is the pocketless woman, as radiant and serene as if there were no husbands in the world

to cross their flowery paths. So what's the use—the birds sing their own tunes, the flowers breathe their own fragrance and the women go without pockets just the same.

Children can ask thousands of questions that are difficult to answer; but a woman seldom meets a more perplexing moment than when her little boy asks her for the first time, "What is honor, mother?" It is a gloriously untranslatable word. Yet it must be explained, and so explained as to show itself, like wisdom, more precious than rubies. Definition is likely to fail. The small boy listens to a long lecture on being honorable, and on being asked, "Do you understand it now?" replies gloomily, "Yes; it's being a great deal better than you need to be, when nobody's going to know whether you are or not!" Example is better than argument for the inspiration of the child, and he will respond quickly to the high appeal when it is made through a genuine case. Two nickels were given to a small boy as he was going to Sunday-school, and although he knew they were intended for the offertory, he kept one. His wise mother told him the simple story of a little-known act of Sir Richard Wallace. By the will of Lord Hertford, Sir Richard inherited a great many valuable works of art and a considerable fortune. Some time after he came into possession of the bequest he learned through a common friend that Lord Hertford had intended to alter his will so as to give a large sum of money to some other relatives. "Can you give me the particulars and the names?" he inquired. His informant was able to do so, and he at once turned over to the persons \$300,000—a large sum, even to a man of his wealth. A friend asked Sir Richard, "Can you afford to do that? Have you enough left?" Quick as thought he replied with the maxim of Publius Syrus: "What is left when honor is lost?"

"Dementia Americana" was an unlucky phrase for Harry Thaw. It was not supported by circumstances in his case, and therefore had the opposite effect from that which was intended by Mr. Delmas. But there is another kind of dementia from which there is no doubt young Thaw has long suffered. That is dementia pecunie, the mental decay that steals upon the children of the rich in this country. Not all rich men's sons are afflicted with it, but some of them are. The victim of dementia pecunie is one who, being in possession of great wealth which he has not made and of the value of which, consequently, he is quite ignorant, gives himself up to enjoyment. He is idle, to begin with, and idleness is fatal. He gratifies every desire that comes into his head, if the gratification can be purchased, and most can be. He lives in luxury, which is bad for any human being, however strong. He does not educate himself, often being, like Thaw, unable even to write a letter above the intelligence of a 10-year-old child. He does not discipline his mind, but allows it to wander wherever it may, thus losing the powers of consecutive thought and concentration. He abuses his senses and so dulls them, until at last they have to be excited by powerful stimulants. Generally he has inherited a tendency toward nervous disease, for the process of making great wealth has not improved his father's health, and strengthens this by the excessive use of tobacco, liquor and sometimes of drugs. A man in this state has no reason and no will, properly speaking. He literally can not resist any impulse, except through the operation of fear; and too often such a man, accustomed to find money all-powerful, does not fear even justice, which he thinks can be bought, like everything else. Fortunately, men of this character are seldom interested enough in anything to commit serious crimes, but if the temptation should come to them they would find it impossible to resist. The life of Thaw should be a warning to rich men who have sons. They should give their money to public charity rather than to boys who would be ruined by it.

Cheap.

The clubwoman giggled. "You know, my husband's birthday is next week," she said, "and I—"

Laughter overcame her for the moment. "—and I have been taking a cigar out of his case every day for the last three months. Well," she went on, "I've got a hundred now, and I'll give them to him for a birthday present."

What She Needed.

Miss Silmm—This dressmaker does not seem to have developed the stylish curves very well in this gown.

Miss Knox—No; you ought to go to Padder & Co.

Miss Silmm—Are they ladies' tailors?

Miss Knox—No; upholsterers.—Philadelphia Press.

A good looking girl is always quite willing to exchange photographs, although she usually gets the worst of the trade.

FLOWERS USED ON STAMPS.

Chrysanthemums for Japan—Thistle Blossoms for Newfoundland.

Japan and Newfoundland are the only countries which have given recognition to the floral kingdom in the issues of their stamps. Trees have been portrayed upon stamps by many countries, especially those situated in the tropics, but it is only on the stamps of Newfoundland and Japan that a flower appears. The chrysanthemum, the national flower of Japan, is given a conspicuous place upon all the postage stamps issued by the government, and upon many of the denominations it occupies the central portion of the stamp. For nearly ten years, from 1857 to 1866, a conspicuous feature of all the stamps of Newfoundland was a bouquet of thistle blossoms within the center of a delicately engraved background. This issue of stamps is exceedingly popular with collectors and is known as "the thistle issue."

Japan is the only country which has ever issued a wedding postage stamp. Seven years ago, when the heir apparent was married, a special stamp in honor of the event was issued by order of the Emperor. This stamp is nearly twice as large as our own and red in color. With a large oval is shown a table, around which sit the bride and bridegroom, with cups of saké. On each corner of the table are branches of pine, the evergreen signifying unchangeableness. It is supposed to insure long life to the young couple. Upon the table cover are depicted several cranes, which are said to be typical of a thousand years of existence. This is the only stamp issued by the Japanese government which does not have the denomination in both Japanese and English.

Belgium lays claim to an odd type of postage stamps. Many people in Belgium are opposed to sending or receiving letters on Sunday. In recognition of this sentiment the Belgian government ordered that a new issue of stamps be made. This "Sunday" stamp is longer than the regular issues and the bottom portion is perforated, forming a sort of a coupon a third of an inch deep. On this coupon is an inscription to the effect that the letter to which it is attached shall not be delivered on Sunday. In affixing a stamp to a letter, if the writer desires that the communication shall be delivered immediately, even though it shall arrive on Sunday, he tears off the coupon and affixes the main part of the stamp.—Boston Transcript.

Is Unlucky Paper Money.

Large numbers of clipped \$2 bills have reached the treasury department at Washington for redemption in the last three years. These bills are all cornerless. That is, all four corners have either been torn off or neatly cut off with scissors or knife.

The officials who interest themselves in tracing such things quickly ascertained that a superstition of racing people lay back of the cornerless \$2 bills. It was found that some years ago the pickers in the racing game developed an antipathy to the \$2 notes, considering them unlucky.

Their method of exorcising the devil of ill luck clinging to the \$2 bill was to tear or cut off the corners before putting it into play. The idea spread. It infected the bookmakers and some bookmakers who received large numbers of \$2 bills in the course of a day's operations fell into the habit of clipping with scissors the corners of such notes as they couldn't unload upon their associates.

Now it is reported that distrust of the \$2 note is becoming general and that the cornerless notes are appearing in many different places.

Her Ingenious Observation.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "the horses are in good form at the track."

"Yes," was the answer, in a tone of irritation.

"But that doesn't prevent some of the betters from being in bad shape, does it?"—Washington Star.

198 Chances.

Gov. Stuart of Pennsylvania said recently in Harrisburg of a bill that he opposed:

"This bill, at first glance, is full of promise and enthusiasm and hope, but it is naive. It is like the young man of Kensington who proposed for the hand of the millionaire's daughter."

"Well," said the millionaire, frowning thoughtfully, "what are your prospects? Is there any chance of promotion in your business?"

"Any chance?" cried the young man. "Well, I should say so. Why, we employ 200 men, and my job is next to the lowest in the establishment."

The Prize Cow.

Take for yourself a well-bred cow, get her on full feed, cram and feed and stuff and cram her for, say, a year. Go to the trouble of washing and currying and scrubbing and combing her twice a day, get down on your hands and knees, polish her horns and brush her tail, and by the time show season comes around you should have a very creditable looking show cow.—Sheridan (Mo.) Advance.

WOMEN'S SMALL BRAINS.

Doctor Examines 70,000 Cases and Reveals Economy of Nature.

Probably no one has made as exhaustive a study of the comparative sizes of men's and women's brains as Dr. Roese, of Berlin, who, says the New York Sun, has taken the facial and skull measurements of 70,000 persons, including 45,000 school boys and girls. In his observations were included Germans, Swedes, Danes, Dutch, Bohemians and Swiss.

He has written a report of his deductions in which he gives the advantage to men and boys from every point of view. Boys have bigger brain capacity than girls, he says, in a degree which cannot be accounted for on the general ground of better physical development. In fact, he confirms conclusions reached by other students that from the ninth year to the close of school age girls on the average are better nourished and developed than boys. The brains of well-grown girls, however, remain inferior in size to those of physically backward boys. In the full-grown woman the skull and the brain remain on a childish plane of development.

The fact that school girls often seem to reach better results than boys, that their actual accomplishments seem greater, he accounts for by the fact that they reach maturity, the degree of perfection of which they are capable, sooner than boys. But the girl stops there, while the boy goes on for years developing and acquiring, and only reaches his full power of utilization years later. When he does so, however, he has far surpassed the level to which the girl attained. In other words, his mental growth as compared with the woman's is not unlike the development of his physical strength.

Dr. Roese adds that, of course, his deductions apply only to normal or average cases. He thinks the difference in the sexes is due to the fact that the principal duty of woman is motherhood, and nature cannot afford to waste on her either physical or mental powers which are not essential to that function.

NO SUCH RECORD OF TALK.

Fifty-ninth Congress the Most Talkative in the Country's History.

Completed records made by clerks of the Senate and House show that the last Congress—the Fifty-ninth—did more talking than any other in the history of the country. Their researches go back fourteen years, or to the Fifty-second Congress. The latter Congress filed 2,620 pages of the Congressional Record with its talk, as against 4,810 for the Fifty-ninth.

In the Fifty-second Congress 10,323 bills were introduced, but the Fifty-ninth set a new figure with 25,897. The Fifty-second Congress was in session 340 legislative days and passed 398 public and 324 private bills. The Fifty-ninth was in session 227 legislative days and passed 692 public and 624 private acts. Most of the measures known as private acts are for the correction of military records or the grant of pensions.

No Congress ever passed the number of bills that were made into law as the Fifty-ninth. It appears that such a thing as a dishonorable discharge from the army or navy, uncorrected by legislative act, will soon be a positive curiosity. Congress is not only generous to the nation's fighting men in the matter of pensions, but it is also charitable in the matter of expunging from the records anything set down against their conduct.

Queer.

Ascum—He doesn't seem to be very popular in political circles just now.

Wise—No. He has just launched a boom for himself as "the popular candidate."—Philadelphia Press.

The way some men eat soup deserves the attention of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Noises.

Way of One Man.

He was romantic, but bashful for his age. At 25 it is expected nowadays that a man should be matter of fact. She was his equal in romance, but a trifle older, old enough, indeed, to be a widow. The conversation had turned on the ever-important subject of mothers-in-law. There was a lull in the argument. Gazing far, she sighed and said:

"Ah, me! I shall never have another mother-in-law!"

He looked at her with interest for a moment, and then suddenly blurted out:

"My mother died when I was very young!"

"It was an inadvertence, but he could not draw back. She threw herself into his arms, and they have lived happily up to now."—Pittsburgh Press.

Slaves Serve as Money.

Perhaps the queerest money in the world is represented by the boy and girl slaves in Mohammedan Africa. One of these will buy two camels. It is a currency much favored to carry itself, and increases in value the best real estate.

My Hair is Scraggly

Do you like it? Then why be contented with it? Have to be? Oh, no! Just put on Ayer's Hair Vigor and have long, thick hair; soft, even hair; beautiful hair, without a single gray line in it. Have a little pride. Keep young just as long as you can.

"I am fifty-seven years old, and until recently my hair was very gray. But in a few weeks Ayer's Hair Vigor restored the natural color to my hair so now there is not a gray hair to be seen."—J. W. HANSON, Boulder Creek, Cal.

Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.
Also manufacturers of
SARRAPILLA PILLS.
CHERRY PECTORAL.

One Exception.

Mrs. Wickler—Dear me! how all the necessities of life have gone up.

Wickler—No; they haven't all gone up.

Mrs. Wickler—Well, I should like you to mention one thing that hasn't gone up.

Wickler—Certainly. My salary.—Illustrated Bits.

Dogs and Musical Tones.

The capacity of dogs to distinguish musical tones has been made the subject of elaborate experiments by Dr. Otto Kallscher, of Berlin, and the results have just been published in the proceedings of the Berlin Academy of Sciences. Dr. Kallscher trained his dogs to pick up and eat morsels of meat set before them only when a certain note was sounded.

FITS. St. Vitus' Dance and all Nervous Diseases permanently cured by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. Kline, J. D., 151 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

How the Ball Wound Up.

"Yass, de beauty an' chivalry ob Smoketown mingled in the ballroom."

"Mingled, yo' say?"

"Mingled, till 'bout 'leven o'clock. Den dey mixed."—Houston (Texas) Chronicle.

Not Committing Himself.

"Do you find my daughter's voice improving, Mr. Sculcher?" asked Mrs. Upmore.

"Improving?" said the professor of vocal training. "Why, my dear madam, it's—er—pot the same voice at all."

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Clever at That.

"Who is that steady-looking man over there?"

"That's Burroughs. He's a real master at constructing short stories."

"Oh, an author, eh?"

"No. I mean he can think up any number of ways of telling you he's broke."—Philadelphia Press.

Water from an artesian well at Ostend which has been wasted for fifty years has now been discovered to possess medicinal qualities similar to the waters of Vichy.

Shake into Your Shoes.

Allen's Foot-Paste. A powder. It makes tight or new shoes feel easy. It is a certain cure for sweating, callous and hot, tired, aching feet. Sold by all Druggists. Price 25c. Trial package mailed FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, New York.

A Distinction.

"So you are one of the men who went west to grow up with the country."

"No," answered the prosperous and serene citizen. "I am one of the men who went west to show the country how to grow up properly."—Washington Star.

He Had Enough.

"Here's a note," said the postal clerk, "from a man complaining that his mail isn't delivered regularly."

"What's his name?" asked the chief.

"Vladevoledowschowski."

"Huh! With that name you'd think he had all the letters he needed."—Philadelphia Press.

Mica Axle Grease Helps the Wagon up the Hill

The load seems lighter—Wagon and team wear longer—You make more money, and have more time to make money, when wheels are greased with

Mica Axle Grease

—The longest wearing and most satisfactory lubricant in the world.
STANDARD OIL CO.
Imported